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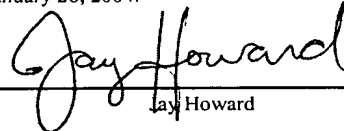
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Joseph Stephen Gordon et al.
Serial No.: 10/072,204
Date Filed: February 7, 2002
Group Art Unit: 1756
Examiner: Mohamedulla, Saleha R.
Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
COUPLING A PELLICLE TO A
PHOTOMASK USING A NON-
DISTORTING MECHANISM**

MAIL STOP – NON FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV352387359US addressed to: Mail Stop – Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 26, 2004.


Jay Howard

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action mailed November 4, 2003 (Paper No. 3), Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments set forth below and request favorable action thereon.

Amendments to Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.